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SENATE MEMORIAL 45

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Phil A. Griego

A MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING CONGRESS TO ENACT AN ADEQUATE PRESCRIPTION DRUG
BENEFIT FOR ALL MEDICARE RECIPIENTS**

WHEREAS, the use of prescription drugs improves quality of care and helps patients live healthier, longer and more productive lives while keeping them out of more costly acute care settings in the long term; and

WHEREAS, since medicare was enacted, the increased use of new and improved prescription drugs has changed the delivery of health care in the United States; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the medicare population has some form of prescription drug coverage, which remains inadequate, and one-third of medicare beneficiaries have no drug coverage at all; and

WHEREAS, congress has not enacted a drug benefit in the

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1 medicare program; and

2 WHEREAS, comprehensive reform of medicare would use the
3 successful tools of the private sector in coordinating care and
4 use the marketplace to foster competition among private plans,
5 resulting in more choices of quality coverage for seniors and
6 the disabled while maintaining the financial viability of the
7 program; and

8 WHEREAS, congress has failed to provide for comprehensive
9 reform of medicare, encouraging states to use their own
10 resources to ease the burden of their elderly and disabled
11 populations and, in effect, to assume an unfunded, informal
12 mandate; and

13 WHEREAS, the congressional budget office and the United
14 States department of health and human services have estimated
15 that there are thousands of medicare recipients in New Mexico
16 who rely on New Mexico's medicaid program for prescription drug
17 benefits and that New Mexico would save eighty-seven million
18 dollars (\$87,000,000) in medicaid funds over the period 2005
19 through 2012 if congress would enact this long-overdue medicare
20 health benefit;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the United States house of representatives
23 and the United States senate be requested to enact financially
24 sustainable, voluntary and universal prescription drug coverage
25 as part of the federal medicare program; and

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